

We especially give thanks and pray for our Nation.

Praying for unity where there is division.

Praying for peace where there is discord.

Praying for love where there is hatred.

Praying for the eradication of all forms of racism, sexism, ageism, inequality, and poverty.

Praying from an end to xenophobia, homophobia, and all other phobias that might plague and poison our Nation.

Praying that we may continue to strive for justice and peace for all people, and always respect the dignity of every human being.

O Lord, bless these United States; for united we stand and divided we fall.

Unite us that we may be more loving and compassionate; more understanding and giving; more inviting and welcoming.

Bless all elected officials, the communities they serve, and every State, every Commonwealth, every city, every district, on every street, and on every doorstep.

And now, O Lord, bless the business proceedings of this day.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome today's guest chaplain, who is from my district. Father Shaw is the rector of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. The church was founded in 1729 as the first black church in the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is also the oldest African American church in Philadelphia.

I have known Father Shaw for many, many years. More recently, I had the pleasure of working closely with him in the Together for West Philadelphia ini-

tiative, which recently celebrated its first year of working to improve health and reduce poverty for the residents of West Philadelphia. That is just one example from his long record of working for social justice.

I know Father Shaw has previously lived in Detroit and Chicago, but I am glad that he has chosen to live where America began, in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of World Refugee Day and in support of the community of refugees who have resettled in my district.

One of these refugees is Kifah Abdulla, who lived in Baghdad until war broke out at home. He spent over 8 years as a prisoner of war. He was isolated because of his activism against the dictatorship.

He was a refugee for 11 years in Amman, Jordan, and 5 years in the Netherlands, before coming to Portland, Maine in 2011. He is now an Arabic teacher, a published poet, a performer, and an activist.

There is a reason America has signed international treaties and passed laws giving shelter to those fleeing persecution. Many refugees, like Mr. Abdulla, were jailed or tortured because they protested, organized, or challenged their government. These values are at the core of our Nation.

Every year, refugees travel 1.2 billion miles in search of safety. And right now, we are in the midst of the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. Sadly, when people fleeing the violence need us most, the administration has dramatically reduced refugee admissions.

In a Nation where nearly all of us have come "from away," as we say in Maine, I urge us all to make our communities warm, safe, and welcoming to refugees across the globe.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CLIFFORD CHESTER SIMS

(Mr. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Vietnam war.

Sergeant Sims was born in Port St. Joe, Florida, and orphaned at a young

age. He was adopted at age 13 by James and Irene Sims. He met his wife, Mary, and joined the Army after high school.

On February 21, 1968, while behind enemy lines during the Battle of Hue in the Republic of Vietnam, Sims threw himself on a grenade in defense of his squad. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his comrades in arms, all while fighting in the name of liberty.

Sergeant Sims was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions. This week, Bay County officially named June 18 Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims Day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Clifford Sims and all our fallen heroes who gave that last full measure of devotion to our Nation.

REMEMBERING THE NAMES AND LIVES OF THE VICTIMS OF ORLANDO'S PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, 49 innocent souls were gunned down at Orlando's Pulse nightclub. In my brief moment here with you, I lift up their first names and their lives.

Edward, Stanley, Ramon, Christopher, Eric, Peter, Luis, Amanda, Jason, Cory, Shane, Kimberly, Eddie, Darryl, Deonka, Anthony, Jean, Luis, Oscar, Enrique, Javier, Jerald, Luis, Tevin, Alejandro, Franky, Martin, Mercedes, Xavier, Gilberto, Simon, Miguel, Joel, Juan, Luis, Juan, Jonathan, Jean, Rodolfo, Brenda, Yilmay, Angel, Frank, Paul, Leroy, Antonio, Christopher, Akyra, and Geraldo.

To Senator McCONNELL and the other leaders, take up legislation that will save lives.

RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the need to ensure quality healthcare for our veterans and military members who may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to the Military Health System, 14 percent of servicemembers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. The condition can lead to substance abuse and cause serious physical and mental health problems.

In Montana, 1 in 10 residents are veterans. That is one reason I have acted to expand mental health services in Montana. With increased resources for the VA system, improved access to community healthcare, and the expansion of telemedicine, we can help to ensure that those who have served get